

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, DECEMBER 6, 2021

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APPLICATION OF

NOVEL ENERGY SOLUTIONS L.L.C.

CASE NO. PUR-2021-00274

For licensure as a non-exempt shared
solar subscriber organization

ORDER FOR NOTICE AND COMMENT

On November 15, 2021, Novel Energy Solutions L.L.C. ("Novel" or "Company") completed the filing of an application ("Application") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for a license to conduct business as a non-exempt subscriber organization in the shared solar program established pursuant to § 56-594.3 of the Code of Virginia ("Code").¹ Novel seeks authority to provide service to subscribers in the service territory of Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia ("Dominion"). In its Application, Novel attested that it would abide by all applicable laws of the Commonwealth and regulations of the Commission as required by 20 VAC 5-340-30 B.²

NOW THE COMMISSION, upon consideration of this matter, is of the opinion and finds that this matter should be docketed; Novel should provide notice of its Application to Dominion; interested persons should have an opportunity to comment on the Application; and the Commission's Staff ("Staff") should be directed to investigate the Application and present its

¹ The Company filed the public version of its Application on November 10, 2021, a Motion for Protective Ruling ("Motion") on November 12, 2021, and the confidential version of its Application on November 15, 2021.

² 20 VAC 5-340-10 *et seq.*

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findings in a report ("Staff Report"). We further find that a Hearing Examiner should be appointed to rule on all discovery matters that arise during the course of this proceeding.

The Commission takes judicial notice of the ongoing public health issues related to the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19. The Commission has taken certain actions, and may take additional actions going forward, which could impact the procedures in this proceeding.³ Consistent with these actions, the Commission will, among other things, direct the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and require electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) This matter is docketed and assigned Case No. PUR-2021-00274.
- (2) All pleadings in this matter should be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by Rule 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice").⁴ Confidential and Extraordinarily Sensitive information shall not be submitted electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, *Confidential information*, of the Rules of Practice. At this time, any person seeking to hand deliver and

³ See, e.g., *Commonwealth of Virginia, ex rel. State Corporation Commission, Ex Parte: Electronic Service of Commission Orders*, Case No. CLK-2020-00004, Doc. Con. Cen. No. 200330035, Order Concerning Electronic Service of Commission Orders (Mar. 19, 2020), *extended by* Doc. Con. Cen. No. 200520105, Order Regarding the State Corporation Commission's Revised Operating Procedures During COVID-19 Emergency (May 11, 2020); *Commonwealth of Virginia, ex rel., State Corporation Commission, Ex Parte: Revised Operating Procedures During COVID-19 Emergency*, Case No. CLK-2020-00005, Doc. Con. Cen. No. 200330042, Order Regarding the State Corporation Commission's Revised Operating Procedures During COVID-19 Emergency (Mar. 19, 2020), *extended by* Doc. Con. Cen. No. 200520105, Order Regarding the State Corporation Commission's Revised Operating Procedures During COVID-19 Emergency (May 11, 2020); *Commonwealth of Virginia, ex rel. State Corporation Commission, Ex Parte: Electronic service among parties during COVID-19 emergency*, Case No. CLK-2020-00007, Doc. Con. Cen. No. 200410009, Order Requiring Electronic Service (Apr. 1, 2020).

⁴ 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.*

physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Clerk's Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange the delivery.⁵

(3) Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, of the Rules of Practice, the Commission directs that service on parties and the Staff in this matter shall be accomplished by electronic means. Concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information, parties and the Staff are instructed to work together to agree upon the manner in which documents containing such information shall be served upon one another, to the extent practicable, in an electronically protected manner, even if such information is unable to be filed in the Office of the Clerk, so that no party or the Staff is impeded from preparing its case.

(4) As provided by Code § 12.1-31 and 5 VAC 5-20-120, *Procedure before hearing examiners*, of the Rules of Practice, a Hearing Examiner is appointed to rule on any discovery issues that may arise during the course of this proceeding, including ruling on the Company's Motion.

(5) Any interested person may request a copy of the Application, accompanying materials, and this Order by directing a request in writing to Rushabh Prakash Rhakta, Legal Administrator, Novel Energy Solutions L.L.C., 2303 Wycliff Street, Suite 300, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55114, rushabh.bhakta@novelenergy.biz. The Company shall, within three (3) days of receipt of such request, serve the requested documents upon the person making such request. A copy of the Application also may be viewed or downloaded from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

⁵ As noted in the Commission's March 19, 2020 Order Regarding the State Corporation Commission's Revised Operating Procedures During COVID-19 Emergency in Case No. CLK-2020-00005, submissions to the Commission's Clerk's Office via U.S. mail or commercial mail equivalents may be subject to delayed processing due to the COVID-19 public health issues. See n.3, *supra*.

(6) On or before December 14, 2021, Novel shall serve a copy of this Order upon Dominion via Paul E. Pfeffer, Esquire, at paul.e.pfeffer@dominionenergy.com.⁶

(7) On or before December 21, 2021, the Company shall file with the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling/, proof of service upon Dominion as required by Ordering Paragraph (6).

(8) On or before January 4, 2022, any interested person may submit comments on the Application by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. A copy of such comments shall be served upon the Company at the email address set forth in Ordering Paragraph (5). Such comments simultaneously shall be sent to Richard Michaux, Senior Utility Accountant, at Richard.Michaux@scc.virginia.gov.⁷ All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00274.

(9) The Staff shall analyze the Application and shall present its findings in a Staff Report to be filed on or before January 14, 2022.

(10) On or before January 21, 2022, the Company may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling/, any response to the Staff Report and any comments filed in this proceeding pursuant to Ordering Paragraph (8).

⁶ See the Commission's Order Requiring Electronic Service in Case No. CLK-2020-00007, *supra* n.3.

⁷ Those without access to electronic mail may serve a copy of such comments on the Company at the address in Ordering Paragraph (5) and on Richard Michaux, Senior Utility Accountant, State Corporation Commission, Division of Utility Accounting & Finance, P.O. Box 1197, Richmond, Virginia 23218.

(11) All documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified herein, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice.

(12) The Company shall respond to written interrogatories or data requests within five (5) calendar days after the receipt of the same. Interrogatories and data requests, as well as the responses thereto, shall be transmitted via electronic mail to the extent possible. Except as modified herein, discovery shall be in accordance with Part IV of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 5 VAC 5-20-240 *et seq.*

(13) This matter is continued.

A COPY hereof shall be sent electronically by the Clerk of the Commission to:

Rushabh Prakash Bhakta, Legal Administrator, Novel Energy Solutions L.L.C., 2303 Wycliff Street, Suite 300, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55114, rushabh.bhakta@novelenergy.biz; Bradley J. Nowak, Williams Mullen, 8350 Broad Street, Suite 1600, Tysons, Virginia 22102, bnowak@williamsmullen.com; and C. Meade Browder, Jr., Senior Assistant Attorney General, Division of Consumer Counsel, Office of the Attorney General, 202 N. 9th Street, 8th Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23219-3424, MBrowder@oag.state.va.us.